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SECOND PROGRESS REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL ON THE UNITED NATIONS OBSERVER MISSION IN LIBERIA

Addendum

1. In my second progress report to the Security Council on the United Nations Observer Mission in Liberia (UNOMIL) of 14 February 1994 (S/1994/168), I had, inter alia, emphasized to the parties in Liberia that the continued support of the international community for the efforts of UNOMIL would depend on the full and prompt implementation of the Cotonou Agreement, including the installation of the transitional Government, disarmament and the unimpeded delivery of humanitarian assistance.

2. The Liberian parties, the Interim Government of National Unity (IGNU), the National Patriotic Front of Liberia (NPFL) and the United Liberation Movement for Democracy in Liberia (ULIMO), at a meeting held at Monrovia on 15 February, reached agreement on most of the outstanding issues which had impeded the commencement of disarmament and the installation of the transitional Government. This meeting was facilitated by my Special Representative and the Eminent Person of the Organization of African Unity (OAU). Also in attendance was a delegation representing the Chairman of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) and the Field Commander of the Military Observer Group (ECOMOG). The final communiqué of the meeting has been circulated to the Council in document S/1994/187.

3. In the final communiqué of the meeting of 15 February 1994, the parties agreed to provide ECOMOG and UNOMIL, within 48 hours, the information required for the preparation of schedules for disarmament and furthermore agreed to the schedule of the joint UNOMIL/ECOMOG reconnaissance missions in their respective areas. On political issues, the parties reaffirmed that the Cotonou Agreement provides the best framework for durable peace in Liberia and reiterated their commitment to proceed with implementation of the Agreement. As detailed in the communiqué, the parties accepted changes in the nominations for the Council of State and agreed that elections for officers of the Council of State should be held. It was also agreed that free and fair elections would be held on 7 September 1994. It was not possible at this meeting to resolve the question of the disposition of the remaining Cabinet posts of Foreign Affairs, Justice, Finance and Defence. On the basis of agreements reached regarding military and political issues, and assuming the full deployment of ECOMOG and UNOMIL

throughout Liberia, the parties agreed that disarmament would commence on 7 March 1994 and that the installation of the transitional Government would take place on the same day. My Special Representative has informed me that the parties have now indeed provided the information required for the commencement of disarmament.

4. The agreement of the parties on these issues is an encouraging development. My Special Representative, in close consultation with ECOMOG, is working intensively to ensure that deployment of their respective forces is completed by 7 March 1994. Another positive development is that the Liberian Peace Council (LPC), one of the new armed groups to emerge in Liberia, has reportedly indicated its willingness to hand over territory under its control to ECOMOG and UNOMIL. However, conflict between LPC and NPFL continues in the south-east, and the influx of displaced persons to Buchanan is increasing.

5. As the communiqué of the meeting of 15 February 1994 indicates, the parties have yet to resolve the issue of the disposition of the four remaining Cabinet posts in the transitional Government. If not resolved expeditiously, this issue could postpone the commencement of disarmament and the installation of the transitional Government. I again urge the Liberian parties to demonstrate maximum flexibility and spare no effort to arrive at an acceptable accommodation. I shall keep the Security Council informed of any further developments in this matter.